304 [626] female friend or relative. There seemed to be no compulsion in the matter beyond public opinion and a woman's natural desire to follow the current methods of adornment. A young married woman in the Tree River group refused to allow her face to be tattooed at all on the ground that the process was too painful; but as she was only 17 years of age her aversion may have been overcome later. [832] The average girl was rather eager to be tattooed in order to increase her charms.

The Copper Eskimo employed the process usual among other Eskimo tribes; they passed under the skin a copper sewing needle threaded with sinew dipped in lampblack. For dots, however, and sometimes also for lines, they did not thread the needle (but inserted into the puncture a sharp wooden stick dipped in lampblack. Only a few marks could be made at one time because the operation was very painful. Most girls began on the backs of the hands and on the forehead.

304 531 The designs consisted of series of parallel lines, zigzag and spur bands. On the face the usual marks were double V's in the middle of the forehead, two or three connected "spurs" running from the corner of each eye, two parallel lines across each cheek, and five lines radiating from the lower lip to the chin (See [177] Figure 44). Three parallel lines on each cheek instead of two, and from six to ten lines on the chin were seen on several women, nearly all of whom came from the eastern end of Coronation Gulf; doubtless, these unusual numbers were due to the influence of the Netsilik Eskimo farther east. On the arms the marks were usually confined to the outer surface (Figure 45); they seldom extended [755] above the elbow, or completely around the lower arm. Tattooing of the legs, after the manner of the eastern natives, was not practised, although a woman in Dolphin and Union Strait was said to have tattooed two small lines on her thigh to remove a painful swelling. A Prince Albert Sound woman had a short line tattooed on her left breast, for what reason I did not discover.

302 We neither saw nor heard of any painting of the face or body other than a few streaks made in jest with a piece of charcoal.